



CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

WASHINGTON, DC 20318-0000

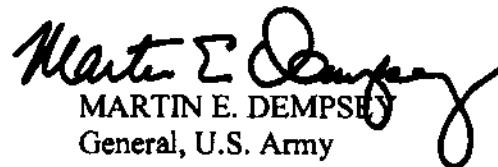
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24 April 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR CHIEFS OF THE MILITARY SERVICES
COMMANDERS OF THE COMBATANT COMMANDS
CHIEF, NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU

SUBJECT: Review of Military Education and Training Curriculum

1. Last October, in response to media attention surrounding the FBI's Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) training and related DoD lecturers, OSD asked the Joint Staff to task the Combatant Commands, Services, National Guard Bureau, and other components to determine the current processes used to vet CVE training and education. OSD's specific intent was "to determine the criteria used to establish professional qualifications for teachers and lecturers providing instruction on countering violent Islamic extremism" as well as "the vetting of curriculum development for cultural awareness pre-deployment training for Iraq and Afghanistan."
2. The Joint Staff consolidated all responses and submitted to OSD in December 2011; however, recent information has surfaced that has caused me to question whether all parties understood the spirit and intent of the request in the responses provided. Specifically, I am concerned that academic institutions within DoD may be presenting material, both by DoD instructors and guest lecturers, which goes well beyond merely presenting alternative intellectual viewpoints on radicalism to advocating ideas, beliefs, and actions that are contrary to our national policy, inconsistent with the values of our profession, and disrespectful of the Islamic religion.
3. I am therefore requesting another senior-leader review by the Combatant Commands, Services, National Guard Bureau, and Joint Staff to confirm that all parties have adequate procedures in place to screen course content and curricula, including presentations by speakers from organizations outside the Department. This review will ensure our Professional Military Education programs exhibit the cultural sensitivity, respect for religion, and intellectual balance that we should expect in our academic institutions. Your reviews should be a holistic examination of your education and training efforts that may address this topic, not just courses focused primarily on the topics of Islamic Radicalism or Countering Violent Extremism. The Joint Staff will evaluate the adequacy of DoD guidance on this issue and make specific recommendations for adjustments to our processes as appropriate.
4. These reviews shall be completed within 30 days of the date of this memorandum. Please provide all responses to Captain Doug Parry, USN, Joint Staff/J-7, at 703-693-5166 and Douglas.Perry@js.smil.mil. My point of contact is Lieutenant General George Flynn, USMC, Director, Joint Force Development, at 703-695-6478 and George.Flynn@js.pentagon.mil.


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General, U.S. Army